

CYNGOR GWYNEDD CABINET



Date of meeting: 28 March 2023
Cabinet Member: Councillor Nia Jeffreys
Contact Officer: Anwen Davies, ARFOR Regional Manager
Sioned Eirian Williams, Head of Economy and
Community Department
Contact Telephone Number: Anwen Davies 32393
Title of Item: GWYNEDD CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Report to a meeting of the Gwynedd Council Cabinet

1. THE DECISION SOUGHT

To agree that Cyngor Gwynedd leads on a grant application and programme to develop innovative plans in the circular economy field of work.

To authorise the Head of Economy and Community Department and the Head of Finance Department to accept a Circular Economy grant offer from Welsh Government and establish appropriate arrangements to deliver the programme in Gwynedd.

To agree that partnership agreements can be put in place with all Project Partners to outline operational details for the projects.

2. THE REASON FOR THE NEED FOR A DECISION

The Welsh Government has invited Local Authorities to submit bids for grant funding from its Circular Economy Fund. Different Council services have collaborated on a bid to fund a package of innovative plans in the circular economy field.

Cabinet approval is needed to receive a grant from the Welsh Government to fund these interventions, which are a commitment of £5,725,687.73

2023/2024 Revenue)	Expenditure	(Capital	and	£3,470,980.03
2024/2025 Revenue)	Expenditure	(Capital	and	£2,254,707.70

3 INTRODUCTION

- 3.1 The Circular Economy is a priority by the Welsh Government in terms of the work of reusing/recreating/repurposing. The Welsh Government's main strategic priorities in the field are:
- Increasing the efficiency of resources and economic activities associated with the circular economy in Wales.
 - Reduction in the waste produced and/or moving up the Waste Hierarchy, particularly in terms of increasing re-use and repair;
 - Further increase in recycling rates – including for non-domestic properties;
 - Reductions in emissions that relate to the circular economy, including de-carbonising waste infrastructure and operations and their climate resilience;
- 3.2 The Economy and Community Department has been coordinating the work with different Council Departments and partners over the past 3 years to develop the Circular Economy in Gwynedd and prepare an application to submit to the Welsh Government to fund a package of schemes. The schemes will enable Gwynedd to lead within the field, and it includes:
- Interventions for the Food Poverty agenda – creation of food hubs; encourage food re-use and school uniform recycling campaigns to support vulnerable families in Gwynedd
 - Re-use/Re-create/Re-purpose Interventions – a number of projects to develop economic opportunities to create opportunities to develop skills in the technology field with Ffiws spaces
 - Creation of Repair Cafes in the County
 - Continue to develop Llyfrgell y Pethau in partnership with the Council's Libraries Service
 - Develop a Green Shed for Antur Waunfawr to increase recycling and recreating.
 - A network of Community Circular Economy Officers to look at educating schools; creating plastic-free towns
 - Support developments to recycle occupational health equipment.
 - Create a space in Bethesda to serve as business units for businesses that follow principles of recycling and re-purposing. Maker Space
 - Create a Green Hub to encourage residents to recycle / re-purpose in Dyffryn Nantlle.

These projects have been a part of the Circular Economy work over the past three years. The intention is to learn from these plans and reach out to more partnerships and communities based on the success seen over the next few years. It is worth noting that there will be more financial opportunities to come from the Welsh Government

over the next months.

3.3 We have submitted the bid to the Welsh Government since June 2022. It is anticipated that a decision will be made on the bid in March. The total value of the bid is £5,725,687.73 and further details about the different elements have been included in the table below:

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	LEAD BODY	COST – 100% Grant	OUTPUTS
Ffiws Spaces/ Repair Cafes	Continue with the developments of maker/innovation spaces and develop a network of Repair Cafes	Menter Môn is the lead authority with support from the Economy Department	£1,723,110	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create Ffiws Spaces • Create Repair Cafés • Project Management posts • Reduce waste sent to landfill • Develop Innovation in spaces and support new businesses
Petha/ ReMake Space	Continue with the development of Llyfrgell y Pethau in Blaenau Ffestiniog/ Penygroes/ Bethesda. Identify opportunities to expand. Create a ReMake space in Bangor	Economy Department – Libraries Service with Benthyc Cymru leading. In terms of the ReMake space, MSParc has been identified to lead with Benthyc Cymru.	£890,154	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of items that can be borrowed • Reduce waste sent to landfill • Create a multi-purpose creation/re-purposing space • Project Management posts • Develop Libraries services
Green Hub – Siop Griffiths	Take ownership of a building to create a Green Hub to develop schemes in the field of recycling/re-purposing	Siop Griffiths	£249,077	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convert an old building • Develop the High Street • Job Creation
Yr Hen Bost, Bethesda	Develop High Street space into a bespoke space for 'Green' work	Partneriaeth Ogwen	£250,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Units • Encourage businesses

	Business Units, Creation and Repair Space			<p>onto the High Street</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job Creation
ALTro	Project to re-use Occupational Health equipment	BIC Innovation , Antur Waunfawr and Byw Bywyd and other partnerships	£350,921	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create bespoke jobs to develop the scheme further • Offer occupational health equipment for the people of Gwynedd • Reduce waste sent to landfill
Green Shed Antur Waunfawr	Project to develop a new Green space at Warws Werdd. Opportunity to do more recycling/re-purposing work	Antur Waunfawr	£150,100	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the items that can be reused/re-created • Reduce waste sent to landfill
DOLAN	Project to create 3 Circular Economy posts in Blaenau Ffestiniog/ Penygroes/ Bethesda. Tie-in with Llyfrgell y Pethau	Partneriaeth Ogwen Sioep Griffiths Antur Stiniog	£290,308	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Plastic-free Towns • Circular Economy specific campaigns
Ar y Lôn	A project to take MSParc to Gwynedd areas, take Technology and Science to rural areas – Pwllheli, in preparation for the Eisteddfod, Blaenau Ffestiniog; Penygroes	MSParc	£124,300	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Six-month Pop-Up Space • Many learning about Technology and Science
Food Pantry	A scheme to develop and support Food Hubs in Gwynedd in response to the work of supporting vulnerable families and communities	Children and Supporting Families Department	£1,095,889	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and develop food hubs • Respond to food poverty challenges in Gwynedd • Reduce food waste

Managerial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring and Evaluation • Project Officer in Economy and • Circular Economy Project Officer in the Highways and YGC Department for Clean and Tidy Communities • Behaviour Change Officers and Project Manager for the Environment Department • Marketing work for the plan on a cross-departmental basis • Case study work on the vision for recycling centres 	<p>Economy Department to lead on the monitoring and evaluation work and coordinate permits for Welsh Government Officer for the Highways Department to correspond with the Clean and Tidy Communities work and officers from the Environment Department to support with the creation of a new vision for the Waste and Recycling Service</p>	£682,828	<p>5 Project Coordinator/Management Posts Marketing Campaign for Gwynedd Support the vision to increase recycling targets in the County.</p>
------------	---	--	----------	--

3.4 The Programme contributes to the Council Plan priority as follows:

Climate and Nature Emergency Plan

Promoting the circular economy in order to reduce the number of items being disposed of and reducing carbon emissions in the supply chain from the purchase of new goods

Supporting People Programme

Contributing to the food poverty agenda which is a part of the Council's response to the cost-of-living crisis. The activity in the bid also contributes to the Community Resilience Framework by building on the growing, preparation, cooking food, local produce hub provision in the Supporting People Hubs.

Economy and Community

Contribute to the broader work of supporting businesses to thrive;

- Encourage local enterprises to develop and create and sustain jobs
- Promotion of Town Centres

Environment

This bid supports a campaign to increase recycling targets and promote the broader principles and work of the circular economy.

The bid includes resources to appoint Officers to coordinate activities and to ensure that we deliver in line with the grant requirements, terms and conditions. Work will be done to create an internal structure to ensure that all activities across departments are coordinated and that they are fed into the Climate Change Plan.

The outputs of the programme will contribute to the statutory re-use data and targets for the Environment Department.

4 THE RATIONALE AND JUSTIFICATION FOR RECOMMENDING THE DECISION

This is an opportunity for Cyngor Gwynedd to be pioneering in the Circular Economy field. Also, it is an opportunity to develop projects that will develop and consolidate the communities of Gwynedd. By being innovative in their responses to community challenges in terms of providing opportunities and services for the residents of the County, e.g. training opportunities; enterprising opportunities; skills development; new business opportunities; creating and protecting jobs; developing and strengthening the supply chain and responding to the challenges of tackling poverty in our communities.

5 NEXT STEPS AND TIMETABLE

We expect to receive approval from the Welsh Government in March 2023.

Implementation of managerial arrangements and commission partners (March 2023 onwards) with all activity to commence from April 2023 onwards until the end of March 2025.

6 ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO RECOMMENDING THE DECISION

The Statutory Officers' observations:

Chief Finance Officer

"I have no objection to the decision sought. As the report makes clear, the grant proposed will give Cyngor Gwynedd the opportunity to support a range of social enterprises. I can confirm that Finance officers will support the Economy and Community Department in administering any grant money we receive from the Circular Economy Fund."

Monitoring Officer

“It is important that arrangements for appropriate funding agreements are put in place once that point is reached”.